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WE CLAIM:

1. A coated cemented carbide body comprising:
a gamma phase consisting essentially of TaC, TiC and WC, wherein the ratio of Ta/Ti is 1.0-4.0, the body having a CW ratio of 0.75-0.95, the CW ratio expressed as:

$$\text{CW ratio} = M_s / (\text{wt. \% Co} * 0.0161),$$
 wherein M_s is the measured saturation magnetization of the body and wt. % Co is the weight percentage of Co in the cemented carbide, the body further comprising a surface zone that is essentially gamma phase-free and is binder rich.
2. The coated body of claim 1, wherein the surface zone is approximately 5-50 μm thick.
3. The coated body of claim 1, wherein the surface zone is approximately 10-30 μm thick.
4. The coated body of claim 1, wherein the surface zone has a binder phase content 1.2-2.0 times the binder phase content in the rest of the body.
5. The coated body of claim 1, wherein the Ta/Ti-ratio is 2.0-3.0.
6. The coated body of claim 1, wherein the CW ratio is 0.80-0.85.
7. The coated body of claim 1, wherein the body comprising Co content of 5-12 wt. %.
8. The coated body of claim 7, wherein the Co content is 9-11 wt. %.

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9. The coated body of claim 1, wherein the combined content of TaC and TiC is 3-11 wt. %.

10. The coated body of claim 9, wherein the combined content of TaC and TiC is 7-10 wt. %.

5 11. The coated body of claim 1, wherein the body comprises WC having a grain size of 1.0-4.0 μm .

12. The coated body of claim 11, wherein the grain size is 1.5-3.0 μm .

13. A coated body of claim 1, wherein said coating comprises a 3-12 μm columnar TiCN-layer, followed by a 1-8 μm thick Al_2O_3 -layer.

10 14. The coated body of claim 13, wherein the said Al_2O_3 -layer is κ - Al_2O_3 .

15. The coated body of claim 13, wherein the coating comprises an outermost layer of TiN.

15 16. The coated body of claim 14, wherein the coating comprises an outermost layer of TiN.

17. The coated body of claim 15, having no TiN layer at an edge line of the body.

18. The coated body of claim 1, wherein the coated body comprises a cutting tool insert having at least one cutting edge.

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19. A method of making a coated cemented carbide body having a gamma phase-free and binder rich surface zone comprising the steps of:

(i) forming a powder mixture comprising WC, 5-12 wt. % Co, 3-11 wt. % cubic carbides of Ta and Ti, where the ratio of Ta/Ti is 1.0-4.0;

5 (ii) adding N in an amount of 0.6-2.0% of the weight of Ta and Ti;

(iii) milling and spray drying the mixture to form a powder material with the desired properties;

10 (iv) compacting and sintering the powder material at a temperature of 1300-1500°C, in a controlled atmosphere of about 50 mbar followed by cooling, whereby a body having a binder phase enriched and essentially gamma phase free surface zone of 5-50 μ m in thickness is obtained;

(v) applying a pre-coating treatment to the body; and

(vi) applying a hard, wear resistant coating.

20. The method of claim 19, further comprising adding a pressing agent and W to the powder mixture in an amount to give the body a CW ratio of 0.75-0.95, the CW ratio is expressed as $CW \text{ ratio} = M_s / (wt. \% Co * 0.0161)$, where M_s is the measured saturation magnetization of the body and wt. % Co is the weight percentage of Co in the cemented carbide.

21. The method according to claim 19, wherein the powder mixture comprises 7-10 wt. % of cubic carbides of the metals Ta and Ti.

22. The method according to claim 19, wherein the coating is applied using a CVD-technique.

23. The method according to claim 19, wherein the coating is applied using a MT-CVD-technique.

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